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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,574	02/01/2001	Arndt Jentsch		2513

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EXAMINER

HENCE EVANS, ANDREA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/774,574

Applicant(s)

JENTZSCH, ARNDT

Examiner

Andrea H Evans

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smiggen et al (4,116,715).

Referring to claim 1, Smiggen teaches a method of producing multicolor printing using printing plates including providing a printing forme cylinder adapted for receiving printing plates; removing printing plates used in a previous printing task for said printing forme cylinder (See Column 3, lines 14-18); providing a printing plate neutralizing device useable to remove images and print from used printing plates (See Column 1, lines 36-39); neutralizing said used printing plates in said printing plate neutralizing device by removing used images and print from said used printing plates; (See Column 1, lines 36-39); applying a coating to said neutralized printing plates (See Column 1, line 47); providing a printing plate exposure and development unit (See Column 1, line 48); securing said neutralized and coated printing plates in proper registration in said exposure and development unit (See Column 3, lines 1-13); providing new images and print to said neutralized and coated printing plates in said exposure and development unit and developing said new images; and reapplying said neutralized and coated printing plates with said new images and print to said forme cylinder (See Column 3, lines 18-19).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smiggen in view of Detmers et al (6510795).

Referring to claim 5, Smiggen teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the above rejection except an automatic plate changing device. Detmers teaches an automatic plate changing device (24). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Smiggen by including an automatic plate changing device therein, in order to provide an automated transferring means as taught by Detmers.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smiggen in view of Verlinden (EP 0940252).

Referring to claim 7, Smiggen teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the above rejection except using a laser neutralization technique. Verlinden teaches including neutralizing said used printing plates using a laser neutralization technique. (See Column 8, lines 15-19). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Smiggen such that its neutralization technique is a laser to adequately neutralize the plate as taught by Verlinden.

6. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smiggen et al (4,116,715).

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Referring to claims 3 and 9, it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide a registration system/registration unit as claimed since one would always need to maintain proper registration when securing removed printing plates.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

7. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 1,3,5,7, and 9 are rejected.

Examiner's 35 USC 112 rejection with respect to claims 3 and 9 is withdrawn. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,3,5,7, and 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

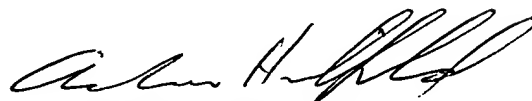
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea H Evans whose telephone number is (703) 305-8427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday; 8:30a-5:30p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Andrea Evans

AHE


ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
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